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Voluntary - Public

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Anthrax Outbreak in a Slovakian Cattle Herd

Report Categories:

Pest/Disease Occurrences

Livestock and Products

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Report Highlights:

On July 9, the District Veterinary Administration of Svidnik ordered specific measures in order to eradicate and prevent spread of anthrax that broke out in one cattle herd. Pasturing is now restricted in all areas that were affected by recent floods. The disease was confirmed by laboratory tests conducted by the State Veterinary and Food Institute on the same day.

General Information:

Author Defined:

On July 13, 2010, the Slovak State Veterinary Administration announced an outbreak of anthrax in a 120 head cattle herd in the Svidnik District of Eastern Slovakia. As of July 27, the total number of reported dead animals is seven.

The first dead animal reported to the veterinary authorities on July 5 was unsuitable for taking samples due to advanced decay. Samples were taken from a second animal, which was reported on July 7. Because the dead animal did not show conclusive signs indicative of an anthrax infection, veterinarians proceeded with an autopsy. Eventually, on July 9, anthrax was confirmed from the laboratory tests conducted by the State Veterinary and Food Institute in Dolny, Kubin.

On July 9, the District Veterinary Administration of Svidnik ordered specific measures in order to eradicate the disease and prevent its spread, in accordance with Slovak law No. 39/2007. No animals can be moved from the affected area and pasturing is restricted. Quarantine of the facility is in effect along with regular clinical examinations of every animal. Decontaminations of the sites where the animals perished were conducted and every person that may have had contact with the infected animals were reported to the District Public Health Authority.

On July 15, 2010, The State Veterinary Administration issued a notice warning all animal breeders about the risk of anthrax infection in areas where pastures were affected by the recent floods, particularly the areas of Stefurov, Valkovce, Sobos, Matovce, and the vicinities of the Radomka river and Valkovsky stream. All animal breeders are banned until further notice from pasturing their animals at pastures that were flooded this year. Breeders must report each cattle death in these areas to the District Veterinary Administration in Svidnik.

Polish Veterinary Authorities were surprised and disappointed that Slovak veterinarians did not notify them about the outbreak of Anthrax, only 40 kilometers from the Polish border. According to the Polish Chief Veterinary Officer they learned about the outbreak from the official information on the OIE web site.